Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 02621 071945Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /020 W

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R 071921Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5236 INFO USICA WASHDC

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DEPARTMENT FOR ARA/ECA

E.O. 11652 GDS TAGS PINS, PINT, SHUM, OEXC (YOFRE, JUAN BAUTISTA) SUBJECT ASSISTANCE TO JUAN BAUTISTA YOFRE

REF: BUMPUS-CHAPLIN LETTER DATED MARCH 30, 1978

1. RICARDO YOFRE, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY, TELEPHONED EMBOFF APRIL 5 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING STUDY GRANT FOR HIS BROTHER JUAN BAUTISTA IN US. EMBASSY HAD BEEN APPROACHED EARLIER BY JUAN BAUTISTA HIMSELF WITH A VIEW TOWARD OBTAINING A ONE YEAR ACADEMIC GRANT. WHAT WE KNEW OF HIS ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS AT THATTIME DID NOT GIVE US ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD MEET NORMAL STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY FULBRIGHT COMMISSION.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION JUAN BAUTISTA
EVIDENTLY PASSED TO OAS, HOWEVER, WE NOW SEE
UNDER SECRETARY RICARDO YOFRES REQUEST IN A NEW LIGHT.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGE OAS TO CONSIDER
POSSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR JUAN BAUTISTA ON
HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL GROUNDS. UNDER SECRETARY
YOFRE, AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, IS A LEADING DESIGNER OF
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PRESIDENT VIDELAS POLITICAL PLAN FOR RETURNING ARGENTINA TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY WHO HAS SUFFERED AT LEAST THREE BOMBING ATTEMPTS DURING PAST YEAR, PRESUMABLY AT THE HANDS OF HARDLINING MILITARY ELEMENTS WITHIN ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES. HE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF EMBASSY OF LONG STANDING WHO SPECIFICALLY HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIS BROTHER, ALTHOUGH

WITHOUT EXPLAINING TO US IN A PHONECON HIS MOTIVES TO SAME DEGREE OR WITH SAME CLARITY WHICH HAS BEEN IMPARTED TO OAS. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL TO YOFRE FAMILY ESPECIALLY IF WE COULD INDUCE OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION TO PICK UP PROGRAM COST.

3. IN MEANTIME, WE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN FURTHER BACKGROUND ON JUAN BAUTISTAS PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS (HE IS A MINOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPORTER OF CLARIN NEWSPAPER.) AND WE WILL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY FURTHER PROGRAM PROPOSALS WHICH MAY APPEAR TO US TO PROVIDE SOLUTION TO THIS QUESTION. HOWEVER, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE IS NOT PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED FOR CONSIDERATION BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE US UNDER ANY PROGRAM SPONSORED BY USG.

4. FOR ARA/ECAS BUMPUS: ENCLOSURE OF MATERIALS FROM ORFILA REGARDING YOFRES CASE NOT RECEIVED WITH YOUR 3/30 LETTER. CASTRO

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